

BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON BEING STRONG & COURAGEOUS

Be strong and courageous. None of us miss the part about being strong and courageous because it was repeated 3 times.

The question is 'be strong and courageous' for what?

For the Israelites, they needed to be strong and courageous for life in the Promised Land. The alternatives, were to return to the wilderness or return to Egypt (the rock or the hard place).

When we apply ourselves to the text, we ask the same question, 'be strong and courageous' for what?

Well, let's get into the Word to find out.

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WARMING UP

1. Are you happy with your current spiritual state? If yes, share with the group your reasons. If no, share with the group your reasons.
2. What are your thoughts on this principle - 'If we live how we have been living, then we will get what we have been getting'?

INTO THE PASSAGES

Read Joshua 1 : Four (4) things about Life in the Promised Land

3. First thing. What was the significance about crossing the Jordan (verse 2)?
4. Second thing. What was the significance about living out God's promises (verse 3)?
5. Third thing. What did the vastness of the Promised Land tell the Israelites about life in the Promised Land (verse 4)?
6. Fourth thing. What were the challenges facing the Israelites? What did the phrase 'all the days of your life' inform the Israelites about the duration of the challenges? What kind of imagery did the phrase 'No one will be able to stand against you' conjure up? Victorious life or defeated life?

The three (3) repeats of the command, 'Be strong and courageous'

7. The first occurrence in verse 6 - Be strong and courageous for the purposes of God. What was God's purpose for Joshua?
8. The second occurrence in verse 7 - Be strong and courageous to obey God's Word. What were the Israelites' responsibilities with regard to the Word of God?
9. The third occurrence in verse 9 - Be strong and courageous for God's presence is with us. What are your thoughts about this?

MOVING FORWARD

Life in the Promised Land to the Israelites is likened to the Spirit-filled life of the modern-day disciples of Jesus. Like the Israelites, we can choose.

Israel in Egypt	Israel in Promised Land
Living in slavery in Egypt	Living in freedom in the Promised Land
Under the tyranny of Pharaoh	Under Lordship of God
Life without hope	Living under the Promises of God
A life under shackles	A vast and abundant life
Presence of Pharaoh	Presence of God
Only conflict	Conflict and victory

Christians in Egypt	Christians in Promised Land
Living in bondage of sin	Living in freedom of the Spirit of God
Living in flesh	Living under the Promises of God
Life without hope	Living with a sense of destiny and purpose
Living without a daily awareness of God	Living with joy in God's presence
Living with internal conflict	Living in restedness

Let's live life 'strong and courageous' in Jesus.

LIFE TOGETHER

A brave and courageous person is a person who lives in the Presence of God, lives under the Promises of God and one who lives among like-minded people to explore the abundant life that God has promised.

What a contrast this life is compared to a life less than what God intended.

Choose life.

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These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes.

INTO THE PASSAGES

Read Joshua 1 : Four (4) things about Life in the Promised Land

3. First thing. What was the significance about crossing the Jordan (verse 2)?

Crossing the Jordan is symbolic of going into water and coming out a new person. They were slaves (old) and now they are free (new). They ate manna and quail (Old) and now they will eat their produce of the land (new).

4. Second thing. What was the significance about living out God's promises (verse 3)?

It was either living in slavery (which the Israelites abhorred and asked to be delivered from) or be promised deliverance and live in the land of Promise.

5. Third thing. What did the vastness of the Promised Land tell the Israelites about life in the Promised Land (verse 4)?

Life in the Promised Land holds so much possibility. God promised them the land where they set their feet on. God will give us this abundant life as much as we can chew.

6. Fourth thing. What were the challenges facing the Israelites? What did the phrase 'all the days of your life' inform the Israelites about the duration of the challenges? What kind of imagery did the phrase 'No one will be able to stand against you' conjure up? Victorious life or defeated life?

There were people living in the land that must be displaced. Remember that God is the owner and that He gave us the land. There were many instances that recorded that the people there knew God had given the land to His people. They didn't have to stay and be slaughtered. Rahab cooperated and her entire family were saved.

The vastness of the land suggested that conquest was a life-long process. Indeed, you read in other passages that Joshua and Caleb fought into their old age.

'No one will be able to stand up' was a declaration made by God. It is He who gives the victory.

The three (3) repeats of the command, 'Be strong and courageous'

7. The first occurrence in verse 6 - Be strong and courageous for the purposes of God. What was God's purpose for Joshua?

Joshua was to lead the people into the Promised Land, which he did successfully. He led by example in conquering Jericho by obeying what God has said fully.

8. The second occurrence in verse 7 - Be strong and courageous to obey God's Word. What were the Israelites' responsibilities with regard to the Word of God?

We read from the succeeding chapters (chapter 23 and 24 of Joshua) that Joshua continued to obey right till his dying days. However, the same cannot be said of the rest. Obedience to the Word of God must be preceded by a knowledge and understanding of the Word of God. We cannot know and understand God's Word by listening to Sunday's sermon alone. 'Keep the Book of Law always on our lips, meditate on it day and night' suggest that serious effort are needed on a daily basis.

9. The third occurrence in verse 9 - Be strong and courageous for God's presence is with us. What are some thoughts about this?

The practice that a Christian can do to make him aware of God's presence is prayer.